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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/716,656

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EXAMINER

POLTORAK, PIOTR

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/716,656	Applicant(s) CHERITON, DAVID R.	
	Examiner PETER POLTORAK	Art Unit 2434	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 April 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6-11,14-20,22,24-31,34-41 and 44-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, 6-11, 14-19, 20, 22, 24-31, 34-41, 44-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's submission filed on 4/08/10 has been entered.

Response to Arguments/Amendments

2. In light of applicant's amendment the 35 USC § 101 rejections cited in the previous Office Action towards claims 30-31 and 34-39 are withdrawn.
3. Applicant's arguments directed towards the 35 USC § 112 rejection have been carefully considered but not found persuasive. It appears that applicant attempts to define the claimed means as some "modules" or "components" rather than a particular (required) structure. Although, indeed cited by applicant paragraphs of the specification suggests the use of hardware in the claimed invention (i.e. router, also indicated in the claim 40, for example (see a processor with coupled memory)) the examiner was not able to ascertain the particular means in regard to a specific physical component but, more importantly, the permitted embodiment (as also noted by applicant: "The operations referred to herein may be modules or portions of modules (e.g., software, firmware or hardware modules)") that utilizes functionalities defined as "means" in software, lacks the algorithm that would be required for this embodiment. (Note that applicant cited paragraphs offers only examples of hardware components ("such as") rather than a *particular* hardware structure required for implementation of the claimed invention.)

4. Applicant's arguments towards the art rejection are directed towards the newly introduced limitations and are addressed in this Office Action, below.

5. Claims 1, 4, 6-11, 14-20, 22, 24-31, 34-41 and 43-49 have been examined.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 40-41 and 43-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as failing to set forth the subject matter which applicant(s) regard as their invention.

Although the claims are drafted using "means plus function" limitations, the examiner did not find correlation of the specific "means" to the disclosed structure, acts, or materials to carry out the recited functions in the specification. It is noted that even though claims 20, 22, 24-26, 30-31 and 34-36 as well as the specification (see the corresponding US PUB 2005/0129019, paragraph 68-69, for example) clearly suggest the claimed functionality being realized in software, no computer code (either specific or a pseudo-code) is offered in the specification that would support the claimed "means". Thus, the examiner is unable to interpret the exact scope of claim limitations under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

6. Claims 10-11 are objected to because “if said forwarding said packet” in claim 10, should read “if said forwarding of said packet”, and “said classifying said packet” in claim 11 misses the term “of”.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. Claims 1, 4, 6-11, 14-19, 20, 22, 24-31, 34-41, 44-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hamma (USPUB 2004/0202171).

As per claim 10, Hamma teaches assigning a security group identifier (SGI) to a packet, wherein said SGI is assigned based, at least in part, on a security group of a sender of said packet a said SGI identifies said security group (as illustrated by VLAN/VID shown in Fig. 3 and 4 and associated text, for example), said security group is configured to represent a plurality of senders and said plurality of senders comprises said sender (as illustrated by VLANs, identified by VID, disclosed in Fig. 21 and associated text); classifying said packet based, at least in part, on said SGI and determining a routing of said packet, wherein said determining said routing is based, at least in part, on said SGI, and said determining said routing comprises identifying a tunnel (The user router CPE A 214 transmits a VLAN packet PKT1 that has been tagged with VID=101. When the packet PKT1 enters the edge router PE A 211, the latter generates an MPLS packet PKT2 by removing the tag and adding, in place of the tag, a VPN label (=26: the VPN identifier of Enterprise A) and a forwarding label (=push label), and sends the packet PKT2 to the MPLS network

200. The MPLS packet PKT2 subsequently arrives at the target receive-side edge router PE C 213 along the preset route through the MPLS network while its forwarding label is replaced. The receive-side edge router PE C 213 creates a VLAN packet PKT3 by removing the labels and adding a VLAN identifier (VID=1501) to which the destination user router CPE C belongs and then sends this packet to the VLAN specified by VID=1501. As a result, the VLAN packet PKT3 arrives at the user router 231, see Hamma, para 93 for example); determining whether forwarding said packet via said tunnel is permitted, wherein said determining whether said forwarding is permitted is based, at least on said SGI and forwarding said packet via said tunnel, if said forwarding said packet having said packet via said tunnel is permitted (the edge router extracts the value of the VLAN ID (=VID)) contained in the tag (step 302) and checks to determine whether the VID value equal to or greater than 4096 (step 303). If the VID value is equal to or greater than 4095 ("NO" at step 303), this means that the range of 0 to 4095 of VID values has been exceeded and the edge router therefore discards this packet. However, if the VID values lie within the range 0 to 4095 ("Yes" at step 303), the edge router refers to the VLAN ID and VPN label conversion table 124 (FIG. 9) (step 304) and checks to see whether a VPN label value has been discovered (step 305). If the decision is "NO", then the edge router removes and executes ordinary MPLS processing. If the decision is "YES", on the other hand, the edge router removes the tag and imposes a Layer-2 label value (VPN label) (step 306), see para 95. Also, note the discussion in regard to received packets with VPN labels, i.e. para 99).

8. As per claim 11, the classification phase at a transmit-side edge router precedes the forwarding of the packet by the router. Thus, the previously discussed forwarding is clearly based, at least in part, on a result of said classifying of said packet.
9. As per claims 14-15, VLAN ID and VPN label conversion table 124 (as shown in Fig. 9 and detailed in Fig. 4) meets the limitation of ACL, a copied VID (VLAN ID) mapped against the ACL entries in order to find the corresponding to find VPN label VID meets the limitation of an index.
10. As per claim 16, a transmit-side edge router meets the limitation of an ingress router and the recipient-side router, an egress router.
11. As per claim 17, Hamma teaches whether said packet can be forwarded by the egress router based on the SGI (The receive-side edge router checks to see whether the MPLS packet has arrived (step 311). If the MPLS packet has arrived, the edge router removes the forwarding label attached as Layer 1 (step 312). Next, the edge router extracts the Layer-2 VPN label (step 313), refers to the table 124 indicating the correspondence between the VLAN ID (=VID) and VPN label (step 314) and checks to see whether the VID has been found (step 315). If the VID has not been found, the edge router discards the packet. If the VID has been found, however, the edge router removes the Layer-2 label and adds a tag that contains the VID to create a VLAN packet (step 316). Next, the edge router refers to the VPN label table 124 to find the output interface and sends the VLAN packet to this interface (step 317). The destination user router CPE C receives the VLAN packet and executes predetermined processing (step 318), see para 99, for example).

12. As per claim 18, as noted in the above paragraph, the egress router (receive-side edge router) at least retrieves the SGI (VPN label), an identifier of the tunnel (VID) and a destination of the packet (destination address (see MAC address in Fig. 3).
13. As per claim 19, VLAN ID and VPN label conversion table 124 (as shown in Fig. 9 and detailed in Fig. 4) meets the limitation of ACL a copied VPN label mapped against the ACL entries in order to find the corresponding VPN meets the limitation of an index.
14. It is noted that task in computing tasks are accomplished by executing computer code/set of instructions stored on a computer readable storage medium using a processor and content-addressable memory. Furthermore, the components/set of components offering the claimed functionalities meet the limitations of the corresponding/claimed means/unit labels cited in the claim language. Additionally, note that the forward information is kept in a header (see Fig. 3, 17A and B and 20, for example). As a result, claims 1, 4, 6-9, 20, 22, 24-31, 34-41, 44-49 are substantially similar to claims 1; thus, claims 10-11, 14-19 and are similarly rejected.

Conclusion

Examiner has cited particular paragraphs and/or sections and/or page numbers in the reference(s) as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures

may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety, as potentially teaching, all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage, as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Poltorak whose telephone number is (571) 272-3840. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and alternate Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Zand can be reached on (571) 272-3811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Peter Poltorak/

Examiner, Art Unit 2434

/Kambiz Zand/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2434